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Andropov tightens police state control, defector contends

BY A WASHINGTON TIMES STAFF WRITER

Soviet leader Yuri Andropov will tighten police state control of his country and increase Kremlin efforts worldwide to destroy U.S. credibility on foreign policy and defense issues, a former KGB major predicted yesterday.

Andropov, who ran the Soviet secret police for 16 years, "has a love of active measures" to promote Soviet policy views through "agents of influence" in foreign governments, academic institutions, the news media, churches and peace organizations, Stanislaw Levchenko told a Capitol Hill press conference.

"Andropov is a Machiavellian type of character, very tough" and wiped out the active dissident movement in the Soviet Union when he ran the KGB, Levchenko said.

The Soviet leader enjoyed reporting the success of KGB "active measures" to his superiors in the Politburo, Levchenko reported, and will multiply them now that he heads the Politburo.

Levchenko defected to the United States in 1979 and appeared with Rep. Bill Young, R-Fla., senior Republican on the House Intelligence Committee, to reveal details of clandestine Soviet propaganda activities that he gave the committee in closed session last July.

The committee has now declassified the two days of testimony by Levchenko, FBI and CIA officials and yesterday released its 337-page hearing transcript and back-up documents on "Soviet active measures."

The hearings include evidence of Soviet tactics to plant forged documents and news stories in foreign countries. The record also contains Communist Party documents regarding Soviet efforts to recruit members of disarmament groups for propaganda purposes or infiltrate them with paid Soviet agents.

Levchenko said he believes "99 percent" of the people in the U.S. nuclear freeze movement are completely sincere. But he said "I know from experience" that Soviet-controlled groups have been involved to push the propaganda line that the United States should unilaterally disarm.

When he headed the Soviet active measures group in Tokyo in 1979, Levchenko said the KGB pumped \$50 million to \$100 million into the worldwide petition-signing campaign against U.S. production of the neutron bomb, which President Carter later ordered stopped.

The Soviet defector said the KGB has a yearly \$4 billion budget for worldwide propaganda, infiltration and other clandestine activities. He said the World Peace Council, parent group of the U.S. Peace Council that helped organize the nuclear freeze campaign, is totally financed by the KGB.

Young said the Intelligence Committee hearings verified that the Soviets have tried to influence the world peace movement but did not assess their success.

In releasing the hearing documents, Rep. Edward P. Boland, D-Mass., the committee chairman, said it is important "to

reassure the Congress and the public that, in the view of the FBI, Soviet active measures have had, at best, minimal impact on U.S. decision makers."

Boland said it is his own personal assessment after reviewing the FBI material "that Soviet agents have no significant influence on the nuclear freeze movement" and "the hearings provide no evidence that the Soviets direct, manage or manipulate the ... movement."

The chairman said the released committee hearing material "again demonstrates what we have known for a long time — that the Soviet Union utilizes considerable amounts of time, money and manpower attempting, both covertly and overtly, to influence individuals, organizations and events in the United States and around the world."